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EXTRACTS FROM THE LETTER-BOOKS OF LIEUTENANT ENOS REEVES, OF THE PENNSYLVANIA LINE.

CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN B. REEVES, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

(Continued from Vol. XX. page 472.)

[LETTER 143.]

“Yesterday being the last time we (the officers of the regiment), expected to be together, as the arrangement was to take place this day, we had an elegant Regimental Dinner and entertainment, at which all the Field and other officers were present, with a few from the German Regiment, who had arrived with the men of their regiment that belong to the Penna. Line. We spent the day very pleasantly and the evening 'till about ten o'clock as cheerfully as we could wish, when we were disturbed by the huzzas of the soldiers upon the Right Division, answered by those on the Left. I went on the Parade and found numbers in small groups whispering and busily running up and down the Line. In a short time a gun was fired upon the Right and answered by one on the right of the Second Brigade, and a skyrocket thrown from the center of the first, which was accompanied by a general huzza throughout the Line, and the soldiers running out with their arms, accoutrements and knapsacks. I immediately found it was a mutiny, and that the guns and skyrocket were the signals. The officers in general exerted themselves to keep the men quiet, and keep them from turning out. We each applied himself to his own company, endeavored to keep them in their huts and lay by their arms, which they would do while we were present, but the moment we left one hut to go to another, they would be out again. Their excuse was they thought it was an alarm and the enemy coming on.

“Next they began to move in crowds to the Parade,

going up to the Right, which was the place appointed for their rendezvous. Lieut. White of our regiment in endeavoring to stop one of these crowds, was shot through the thigh, and Capt. Samuel Tolbert in opposing another party was shot through the body, of which he is very ill. They continued huzzaing and firing in riotous manner, so that it soon became dangerous for an officer to oppose them by force. We then left them to go their own way.

"Hearing a confused noise to the Right, between the line of Huts and Mrs. Wicks, curiosity led me that way, and it being dark in the orchard I mixed among the crowd and found they had broken open the magazine and were preparing to take off the cannon.

"January 2 1781."

[LETTER 144.]

"MOUNT KEMBLE.

"In taking possession of the cannon they forced the sentinel from his post, and placed one of their own men. One of the mutineers coming officiously up to force him away (thinking him to be one of our sentinels) received a ball through the head and died instantly.

"A dispute arose among the mutineers about firing the alarms with the cannon, and continued for a considerable time—one party alledging that it would arouse the timid soldiery, the other objected because it would alarm the inhabitants. For a while I expected the dispute would be decided by the bayonet, but the gunner in the meantime slip'd up to the piece and put a match to it, which ended the affair. Every discharge of the cannon was accompanied by a confused huzza and a general discharge of musketry.

"About this time Gen. Wayne and several field officers (mounted) arrived. Gen. Wayne and Col. Richard Butler spoke to them for a considerable time, but it had no effect—their answer was, they had been wronged and were determined to see themselves righted. He replied that he would right them as far as in his power. They rejoined, it was out of his power, their business was not with the officers,

but with Congress and the Governor and Council of the State; 'twas they had wronged and they must right. With that, several platoons fired over the General's head. The General called out, 'if you mean to kill me, shoot me at once, here's my breast,' opening his coat. They replied that it was not their intention to hurt or disturb an officer of the Line, (two or three individuals excepted); that they had nothing against their officers, and they would oppose any person that would attempt anything of the kind.

"A part of the Fourth Regiment was paraded and led on by Capt. Campbell, to recapture the cannon; they were ordered to charge and rush on—they charged but would not advance, then dispersed and left the officer alone. Soon after a soldier from the mob made a charge upon Lieut. Col. William Butler, who was obliged to retreat between the huts to save his life. He went around one hut and the soldier around another to head him, met Capt. Bettin who was coming down the alley, who seeing a man coming towards him on a charge, charged his Espontoon to oppose him, when the fellow fired his piece and shot the Captain through the body and he died two hours later.

"January 2 1781."

[LETTER 145.]

"MOUNT KEMBLE.

"About twelve o'clock they sent parties to relieve or seize the old Camp guard, and posted sentinels all round the camp. At one o'clock they moved off towards the left of the Line with the cannon and when they reached the centre they fired a shot. As they came down the line, they turned the soldiers out of every hut, and those who would not go with them were obliged to hide 'till they were gone. They continued huzzaing and a disorderly firing 'till they went off, about two o'clock, with drums and fifes playing, under command of the sergeants, in regular platoons, with a front and rear guard.

"Gen. Wayne met them as they were marching off and endeavored to persuade them back, but to no purpose; he then inquired which way they were going, and they replied

either to Trenton or Philadelphia. He begged them not to attempt to go to the enemy. They declared it was not their intention, and that they would hang any man who would attempt it, and for that, if the enemy should come out in consequence of this revolt, they would turn back and fight them. 'If that is your sentiments,' said the General, 'I'll not leave you, and if you wont allow me to march in your front, I'll follow in your rear.'

"This day Col. [Walter] Stewart and Richard Butler joined Gen. Wayne in hopes they could turn them when they grew cooler, being much agitated with liquor, when they went off, it being New Years day they had drawn half a pint per man. The men have continued going off in small parties all day. About one o'clock one hundred head of cattle came in from the Eastward, which they drove off to their main body, which lay in a wood near Vealtown, leaving a few behind for the use of the officers.

"When we came to draw provisions and State stores this day, we found that near half of the men of our regiment had remained.

"The men went off very civilly last night to what might have been expected from such a mob. They did not attempt to plunder our officers' huts or insult them in the least, except those who were obstinate in opposing them. They did not attempt to take with them any part of the State stores, which appears to me a little extraordinary, for men when they get but little want more.

"The militia are called out, they are to assemble at Chatham, in order to oppose the enemy if they come out, or the mutineers if they attempt going to them.

"January 2, 1781."

[LETTER 146.]

"DR LIDDEL'S, MENDEM.

"On the afternoon of the 2d inst. I procured wagons and moved all the officers' baggage out of camp to Mr. Daniel Drake's on the S—— Road, in Mendem, about three miles from the huts, to which place most of the officers and their boys returned.

“The revolted party marched from Vealtown to Middlebrook, and the 3rd went on to Princetown. In the evening an Express arrived from Gen. Wayne, ordering all officers of the Division (a quartermaster and subaltern from each regiment excepted), to press horses and make all possible speed to Pennington. (Ensign Brooke was left behind and I as Quartermaster, of course.) The greater part of the Officers left the night of the 3rd, and the others followed on the fourth. Since this affair Mrs. Wicks and Dr. Liddel’s very agreeable families have been kept in continual alarm.

“On the 5 inst. as I was obliged to be in camp once every day, I concluded it would be best to move in and stay there, and in consequence of that resolution moved my baggage, and when it had come as far as Dr Liddel’s he very kindly offered me the use of his house and to live with his family. I accepted the generous offer with pleasure. Drank tea and spent the afternoon with the agreeable young ladies.

“About ten o’clock I walked in to camp to see if all was quiet, and when I came on the parade, I found a number of men assembled, and when I reached our regiment, a signal gun was fired on the right of the Division, and in a short time a large party collected and endeavored to take off the two remaining pieces of artillery. Not finding it convenient they went off about twelve o’clock and left them with us. This party in going off behaved with less noise and more impertinence than the first. They fired on two or three officers as they were going out of camp. About one o’clock I returned from camp to the Doctor’s, where I found the family up, with the addition of Mrs. Wicks and her agreeable daughter, almost frightened out of their lives, as some of the mutineers made their appearance around their house and insisted on their showing them where to find horses.

“Everything is still again today and the young ladies not much the worse for their fright.

“January 6, 1781.”

[LETTER 147.]

“D^R LIDDEL’S, MENDEM.

“We are informed that the mutineers lay at Princetown and intend to await the arrival of some persons from Congress and the Governor of the State. One Sergeant Williams commands the Line, a sergeant is appointed to the command of each regiment, and the first sergeants of each company still keep the command, except in some few instances where they have misbehaved and in consequence turned out. They have likewise a Board of Sergeants, consisting of twelve, a president and secretary, by whom all business is transacted, orders issued, provision returns, &c. They have kept the men in such order on the march and in Princetown as reflects on them the highest honor. But the stragglers who went off in small parties have committed great depredations on the road.

“The militia of this and neighboring counties are called out and ordered to rendezvous at Chatham, as well to defend the lines from any attempt of the enemy to penetrate the country at this time as to hinder any of the mutineers from taking that route, should they attempt it. We have certain intelligence that the enemy have reinforced Staten Island with a large body of men to be ready for any movement that may offer. I have spent my time very agreeably in this very pleasant family in the constant company of the ever amiable and very agreeable Miss Betsy Liddel, and very often with the additional happiness of Miss Wicks’ company, and sometimes with Col. Spencer’s lovely family, which has caused long and perhaps tedious evenings to pass away unnoticed. Capt. William Gray being here at this time, when the ladies did not interfere, with the Doctor and myself would ply the apple-toddy and amuse ourselves with nuts. Thus I have striven to beguile care, for you must know this revolt has given me many uneasy hours.

“Yesterday Major Fishbourn went on express from headquarters with dispatches for Gen. Wayne. His Excel-

lency has been expected down from New Windsor, but it was thought most expedient for him to remain.

“January 14, 1781.”

[LETTER 148.]

“DR. LIDDEL’S, MENDEM.

“Last evening Capt. Stake and Steele arrived from Penn-ington, (where the officers of the Line are quartered), with the following intelligence. The Governor of Pennsylvania, with a Committee composed of a member of Congress, one of the Council, one of the Assembly and a citizen, to settle or treat with our mutineers. Previous to their arrival, three spies who had come from Gen. Clinton (British) were arrested by the revolvers, and after being drum’d along the Line were delivered to Gen. Wayne to be tried. They brought a letter from Gen. Clinton to this effect—That if the revolted party would come to Amboy, he was waiting with a great force on Staten Island to receive them; that he would grant them all they could expect from this revolt, that is their arrearages of pay and clothing, make up their depreciation in hard money, with the addition of several guineas to each man. To their immortal honor, they rejected it, and delivered up the messengers as spies, who were tried the evening of the same day and hung the next morning about eight o’clock, and I am informed are to be left hanging till they fall from the gallows.

“You know a great number of the men enlisted *for three years or during the war*, which has for a long time given cause of uneasiness in the minds of the soldiers. They claim their discharge at the expiration of three years, while the State claims their services for the war. However, that matter is now given up and proposals made to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Penna. Line to the following purport: That every non commissioned officer and soldier whose enlistment specifies *three years or during the war*, shall be discharged, and that the gratuity of one hundred dollars given by Congress is not looked upon as a bounty. That those enlisted for the war were to remain in

service, but that the Governor would endeavor to have something done for them in consideration of the smallness of their bounty, and that they should be indulged with a furlough for a short time. That auditors shall be appointed to settle their accounts of depreciation and certificates given for them as soon as possible. That where the enlistment cannot be produced the soldier's oath shall be taken, with regard to the terms of his enlistment and he discharged thereon accordingly. And if a soldier can prove that he was forced to enlist or any undue advantage taken of him, he shall be discharged. That every one on producing his discharge or furlough to the Clothiers and Commissioners at Trentown, shall receive one shirt, one pair of overalls and a pair of shoes. This was agreed to by the mutineers, and they are to march tomorrow to Trentown, and the Committee to begin their business at once. The paymasters are sent for, who are to bring all enlistments and other regimental papers.

"Col. Humpton has arrived at Trentown and has sent up for his baggage—for the purpose of sending which, I have this day been to Squire Dailey's who has promised to send me a wagon tomorrow.

"January 14, 1781."

[LETTER 149.]

"DR. LIDDEL'S, MENDEM.

"On the 15th inst. Lieut. Col. William Butler received orders from Gen. Wayne to repair to Pennington with all the officers' baggage and the remaining men of the Line. Of the latter, there were not many, as they have been joining the rest in small parties ever since the revolt.

"Squire Dailey disappointed me in a wagon, and I wrote to Squire Stiles for one for the Colonel's baggage.

"On the morning of 16th breakfasted at Col. Spencer's and got an order on Squire Stiles for three wagons, but on my arrival at his house found a prior order of the Deputy Q. M. from Morristown had deprived me of what he could furnish. I then proceeded to Squire Dailey's at Chatham,

who promised me three, which he was to send the following morning. You must know that the mutineers stole my horse and I now have a borrowed one.

"I stopped at Lieut. Col. Hay's quarters and was agreeably surprised to find him there as he had arrived in the course of the day from Pennington. The Committee have begun to settle with the men and proceed rapidly.

"The 17th I procured a wagon for the Colonel's baggage and gave orders for its setting off the next morning. I awaited the arrival of the teams from Chatham with great impatience, but to my great mortification found myself again disappointed. The teams for twelve miles round this place have been so harrassed since our arrival in quarters, with assisting in drawing the timber for building, drawing forage, provisions and timber for the redoubts, with what the mutineers impressed and what we have employed to move our stores, that a person might almost as well attempt to make a wagon and horses as to procure them otherwise.

"January 17, 1781."

[LETTER 150.]

"PENNINGTON N. J.

"Lieut. Feltman and Ensign Brooke being impatient left for Pennington. The 21st had the baggage loaded and sent off; settled and gave certificates for forage &c. for the use of the regiment. Returned to Dr Liddel's, where I dined with Miss Wicks and the doctor's family. Delayed setting off until four o'clock, when with regret I was forced to part with that very agreeable family. I expected to ride seventeen miles to the White House, but by the badness of the road night overtook me at Mendem, where Lieut. White (who was wounded) quarters, who prevailed with me to stay all night.

"Being under the necessity of being up with the baggage before they set out in the morning I arose at one o'clock and overtook it. We set off, and I breakfasted with Col. Berry at the White House. In the evening we reached the north branch of the Raritan, where we remained all night.

I found myself very sick and with some difficulty was able to sit on my horse. On the 22d arrived at Pennington where all the officers are quartered.

"January 23, 1781."

[LETTER 151.]

"PENNINGTON N. J.

"On my arrival I found the officers of the First, Second and Third Regiments had left the town and gone to Philadelphia, their regiments having been settled with. On examination I found myself arraigned in the Second Regiment, Capt. Patton and Ensign Van Court in the Sixth, and all the rest of our officers in the First.

"At Pennington I quartered at a Mr. Kerr's who keeps a very good tavern, where with a number of others we lived in one continuous round of riot for the space of five days.

"On the 24th and 25th our regiment was settled with; the 27th we moved to Trentown, and put up at a genteel tavern at the ferry. . . . The morning of the 28th made a visit to Col. Humpton, who is very lame. I breakfasted with Col. Nelson Q.M. to the State of New Jersey, in company with Capt. Beeker. No vessels being up from Philadelphia, I made application for wagons to go down by land; they arrived, we loaded them and crossed the Delaware and arrived at Bristol. . . . The town is chiefly inhabited by the people called Quakers, from their unsociability like an infectious disorder has spread itself over almost all Pennsylvania.

"On the 29th we proceeded towards Philadelphia—crossed Neshaminy ferry and arrived at the city early in the evening, and took up our quarters at the King of Prussia Tavern on Market Street.

"January 30, 1781."

[LETTER 152.]

"PHILADELPHIA.

"This is my first appearance in the city since the battle of Brandywine. I visited my Aunt Reeves who I found in perfect health; met Miss Polly Morris and called on Miss Patty Caruthers, where I drank tea and spent a very soci-

able evening. On February 1st was introduced to Miss Rachel and Nancey Gardner, Miss Bell and Miss M^cCauley with several gentlemen, drank tea, danced and sung. It would be an everlasting piece of work to inform you of every days amusement, let it suffice to say, that I never drank tea, seldom dined or breakfasted at my quarters. . . .

"February 8, 1781."

[LETTER 153.]

"PHILADELPHIA.

"A few days since, on invitation of the citizens of this city all the officers dined at the City Tavern. The company was very large, not less than three hundred; the Ambassador of France, the President of Congress, Generals St. Clair, Wayne and Irvine were of the company. We sat down at four o'clock to dinner, which was brought on in elegance and greatest abundance. After dinner, we had the greatest variety of wines of the best brands, and began to drink toasts—'Our illustrious Allies,' 'The United States of America,' 'The General and the Army,' and a number of patriotic toasts. When General Washington was given, every eye sparkled with joy, and a bumper toast was the cry, which every one drank with pleasure and we gave three huzzas. The wine was plied close and by seven o'clock the company began to grow noisy, though numbers had left before that time. A song was sung by Dr. Duffield Jr., that had been composed for the occasion, which I thought elegant. He sings well and was applauded. I retired about eight o'clock in good order and spent the remainder of the evening with very agreeable ladies."

[The Letter-Book beginning with Letter 154 to 197 is missing; the succeeding book begins with a mutilated part of Letter 198, dated at Reading, Pennsylvania, in September of 1781.]

[PART OF LETTER 198.]

Beau Tippet	Lieut. Jones.
Mrs. Gadabout	Capt. Bush.
Mrs. Tippet	Doct ^r Alison.
_____	Master Scull.
Drunken Cook	Capt. Bowen.

"We were as busy as possible and as assiduous as if we expected to make a living by it, so eager are all men for Applause, that we cannot think of being excelled even in the character of a player. The task is so severe on me that I believe I shall give it up for the future, but the parts I have had, have been exceeding long, and mostly the person in trouble, which affects me almost as much as if it was real.

"READING PA.

"Sept. 1781."

[LETTER 199.]

"On Monday last we performed the *Revenge* again, with the *Lying Valet* for a farce; our house was much crowded, a number of people that had not tickets beg'd to be admitted. We had the satisfaction to hear that every character in the Tragedy was better supported than the last evening, Carlos excepted, which was not done so well. Leonora made a brilliant appearance this evening dress'd in a pink silk with an extraordinary head dress.

"The Farce pleased the Dutch inhabitants exceedingly; and kept them in one continual burst of laughter.

"We broke up about one o'clock, and waited on the ladies of our acquaintance home in dress.

"Sharp and Kitty Any was well supported, and all the rest [*torn badly*] Lawyer Biddle, Lawyer Graydon and several others was pleased to compliment the performers. So much for plays.

"READING PA.

"Sept. 1781."

[LETTER 200.]

"Last evening the officers of the garrison at this place had a Ball and entertainment, to which all the ladies and gentlemen of the town was invited. The Ball was opened about 7 o'clock with a Minuet—we then proceeded to Country Dances; and spent the evening. About 11 o'clock adjourn'd to a genteel supper, our wines were tolerable, the music good. After supper our dances were chiefly

Cotillions, and concluded the evening in a very agreeable manner about two o'clock in the morning, and waited on the ladies home. This day has been spent very agreeably according to custom, in waiting on the ladies; I drank Tea this afternoon with the agreeable Miss Nelly Scull, her mother and sister.

"READING, Sept^r . . . 1781."

[LETTER 201.]

"On Wednesday evening last an express arrived from Genl. St. Clair to march all the troops from this place to the City of Philadelphia with all expedition. On Thursday morning orders was issued to be ready to march off the parade at Troop-beating on Friday morning. On Monday last we paraded and fired thirteen pieces of Artillery on the arrival of news of twenty-eight sail of the Line in Chesapeake bay, of the French Navy. Lord Cornwallis is now in Yorktown, in Virginia, and his Excellency Gen. Washington is on his way to Virginia with detachments of Infantry from the Northern Army and ——— thousand French troops from the same place, one Reg^t of which was reviewed on Philadelphia Commons before his Excellency—Every body allows both friend and foes that they never saw troops make so brilliant an appearance, or exercise, or fire with greater regularity or exactness.

"The French troops marched by land to Annapolis, and our troops embarked on board small vessels at the Head of Elk.

"There is a report now prevailing, that a party of the enemy from New York under the command of the infamous Arnold is expected to make an excursion in the Jerseys, and some think will make a push for the City of Philadelphia, in order to make a diversion in favour of Cornwallis, who is blocked up in Virginia.

"The militia of this State are under marching orders and to rendezvous at Newtown in Bucks County.

"Our detachment marched off yesterday morning for

Philadelphia. I have remained behind, having a horse and shall set off this day. The town looks distressed since the departure of the troops, no drums beating in the morning or evening, nor crowd of men parading up and down the Streets, nor gay officers gallanting the gayer ladies to and fro—the ladies look disconsolate and confess their loss. I am just going to take my leave, and to horse, and away to Philadelphia.

“READING PA.,

“Sat. Sept . . . 1781.”

(To be continued.)